

JORDAN TIMES

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University professor says

Drug addiction is emerging as a problem in Jordan

By Serene R. Farraj
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, Jan. 30.—“The phenomenon of drug use and abuse is becoming a serious problem in Jordan, and it will certainly increase if we don't act to prevent it from spreading widely in our society,” Dr. Fawzi Dawoud, Director of the Counselling Center at the Jordan University said in an interview, here yesterday.

“The dangerous element is that we respond to human problems by providing the people with chemical solutions, instead of looking for human solutions. For example, patients who suffer from maladjustment need counselling more than anything else, yet doctors prescribe to them a certain kind of drug, an easy solution to the problem,” he added.

An exploratory study has been conducted by Dr. Dawoud concerning the use and abuse of drugs in Jordan. “This study serves as baseline data for future studies on this problem,” Dr. Dawoud said.

The study was conducted to answer many questions raised regarding the problem of drug dependency in Jordan, such as: the expectations and estimates of workers in the medical field concerning the development of this phenomenon; the extent of drug dependency in Jordan; the most common drugs used or abused; geographic distribution of cases; dependency on particular drugs; whether there is any relationship between medical practices and drug use or abuse; the distribution of drug dependency according to age, sex, and profession; and finally the sources of drugs.

As for the method used in conducting the study, Dr. Dawoud said: “Because of the difficulty of reaching the population of drug dependents in Jordan and of taking a sample from the general population, it was decided that the sample should consist of 470 persons, chosen from people directly involved in drug use and distribution such as physicians, pharmacists, school directors and counsellors, and persons in key positions at the Ministry of Health.

In answer to a questionnaire 77 per cent of the physicians, and 79 per cent of the pharmacists said

they thought the phenomenon of drug use constituted a problem, and that this problem would increase in the future. Although there are laws to limit and control drug use, 41 per cent of the physicians and 50 per cent of the pharmacists said that these laws and regulations were not applied and do not serve the purpose for which they were made.

Dr. Dawoud said: “The Department of Drug Prevention and Enforcement had made an estimate of 1882 cases of drug dependency (on hashish and opium) between 1970-1976, 90 per cent of them on hashish, but this is only an estimate; it does not reflect the exact number, which is certainly higher.” Four hundred and twenty one cases of drug dependency were reported by those questioned in the study. This number is an indication of the danger of the problem threatening our society.

The study also indicates that the problem is increasing with the passage of time. For example, 23 cases of drug dependency were reported by those questioned for the period 1970-1971, while in 1976-1978 the number of cases reported reached 297.

Tranquilisers were found to be the most common or popular drugs because doctors believe they are safe. Narcotics, which include morphine, heroin and codeine were the next most common drugs in use; then barbiturates which include psychosedatives (Valium, Equanil and Milton); then stimulants, which include marijuana, L.S.D. and cocaine.

The study illustrated that males were more dependent on drugs than females. The study revealed that 64 per cent of the cases were of male drug dependence, and 36 per cent were females. “This could raise several questions,” Dr. Dawoud said: “Is the female more protected culturally in our society: is it difficult for the female to follow different patterns of behaviour in her request for drugs; how long will this cultural protection last, when we see that women are becoming very active in our society?”

The tendency of drug use and abuse among the youth is as strong as it is in western countries. The

study revealed that 46 per cent or 193 cases depended on tranquilizers, 106 of these cases were below 20 years of age. “This indicates that drugs have entered the youth population, which makes it a must for us to think of effective prevention methods,” Dr. Dawoud said.

Concerning the distribution of drug dependence according to occupation, it was found that the highest number were students about 28 per cent or 117 cases; free business, 16 per cent; workers in the medical field, 13 per cent; government employees, 10 per cent; workers, 10 per cent; army officers, 2 per cent; unemployed, 5 per cent; unknown professions, 15 per cent.

It was found that physicians and pharmacists constitute an important source for drugs in addition to illegal smuggling. Dr. Dawoud continued: “Until now efforts were only directed towards smuggling, without taking into consideration the danger of medical abuse. Therefore attention must be paid to medical drug abuse while carrying out our preventive methods, for we must learn from the West that when illegal sources are banned, medical drug abuse increases.”

Dr. Dawoud added that doctors and pharmacists must be made better aware of the consequences of drugs and their effect on human behaviour.

“We must not concentrate our laws and regulations on illegal smuggling only. We need a more integrated approach to prevention, we need specialised centers for treatment, because our medical hospitals are not equipped for treating such problems, problems that need counselling more than anything else,” he said.

“It is important to not the necessity of establishing a medical data center before adopting any preventive method, to help us in defining the cases of drug dependency in Jordan. Any protective method must aim at limiting supply through administrative, executive and security measures, and demand through educational and psychological awareness campaigns,” he concluded.

ECONOSCOPE

A nomination and a query

By Jawad Ahmad

I: The Central Bank of Jordan has recently announced that it will give two JD 500 prizes each for the best economic research, and the best journalistic economic report. It goes without saying that the prizes will only be given to publications concerning Jordan.

This is naturally a step in the right direction, and it should be encouraged. In the field of journalism, no prizes have been given in Jordan so far. This is the first of its kind.

For this year I nominate two people who, I think, are worthy of the prize. They are Rami Khouri and Mohammad Abu Ghoush.

Mr. Khouri is too well known to the readers of the Jordan Times to be introduced. Yet, I believe that he should be cited for his courage when he shouldered the Jordan Times from the start as editor, for his excellent analytical abilities, and above all for his unceasing contribution both home and abroad.

Mr. Abu Ghoush has always shown an ability to deal with the right topic at the right time. His reports on economic public issues in Al Dustour have always been timely, comprehensive and to the point.

There are other people for whom I hold respect. For instance, there is Ian Kellas of the Jordan

Times whose ability to cover local references is quite admirable. His skepticism proved that it can be as productive as a vocative.

II: This is an altogether different and even wonders whether it is wise to raise. Yet, I do not mean to be critical, just to

I often admire the insight of some economic policy-makers. This often comes in the decisions they make.

However, when their knowledge of economics is put to the test, it does not stretch very far. They cannot produce a curve, nor repeat Slutsky equation. Obviously their training shifted away from economics to commerce. Their economic writings or thoughts are in the vein of those of some businessmen.

The question is: if top policy-makers make good economic decisions relying on their rather than theoretical knowledge, what is the use of learning theory?

If someone makes a decision which is a violation of the norm, he is accused of being a misguided fellow, alias crazy. Yet if he makes an economic decision without having a theoretical economics, he is discarded as an intruder, then serve as a license to enter the club is all.



The new Upper House holds its first meeting in Amman, Jordan.

New Upper House holds first session

AMMAN, Jan. 30 (JNA)—The new Upper House of Parliament held its first session today under the chairmanship of its speaker Mr. Bahjat Talhoumi. During the session Mr. Sa'd Jum'a was elected first deputy spokesman of

the House; Ahmad Touqan, second deputy; Abdul Rahman Khalifa was elected as first assistant and Hashem Al Jayousi as second assistant to the speaker.

The new officers were authorized to meet Saturday to nominate

the legal framework and for the House has been agreed. The House will hold sessions once a month starting at the end of February.

Israelis confiscate land in West Bank

AMMAN, Jan. 30 (JNA)—Newspapers in the occupied West Bank today said that the Israeli custodian of the absentee's property notified 160 inhabitants of the Hazma and Jaba' villages in the West Bank that several thousand dunums of their land have been confiscated. They have been referred to the custodian's office to receive compensation.

The newspapers said the villagers, who were surprised by the Israeli action, refused to accept the notification of compensation, insisting to retain their land.

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ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Under the heading “The only Practical Answer” AL RA'I's editorial Tuesday says the decisions that can be reached by the Syrian-Iraqi Joint Higher Committee would lead to substantial alteration in the balance of power in the Middle East.

Naturally, such an eventuality would not be accepted by Israel and its allies due to the fact that Israel and its supporters are concentrating on dissecting the Arab ranks and dissipating the Arab Nation's energies in side channels that bleed out its capabilities and make it unable to face not only the aggression but also the plans aimed at liquidating the Palestine issue and the very Arab existence.

Welcoming the creation of a unified state between Syria and Iraq the newspaper urges that the two countries should make a thorough study of their unification steps, taking into account the potential threats that may act towards aborting such a unity as did happen in previous inter-Arab unitary efforts.

AL DUSTOUR takes issue with a statement attributed to the Indian Prime Minister Morarji Desai calling on the Arabs to relinquish the desire to destroy Israel which he considers a reality that cannot be reversed.

Expressing its astonishment at Mr. Desai's surprise statement, the newspaper says the Indian leader made his call at a time when Israel was occupying vast tracts of land belonging to three Arab countries, carrying out savage incursions into South Lebanon and denying the existence of the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination as well as refusing peace enshrined in the Camp David agreements which are far below the relevant international resolutions!

Mr. Desai's pronouncements appear to indicate that he is living in another world completely, the newspaper says.

WHAT'S GOING ON

American Film

The American Centre is showing two films today, the first at 6:00 p.m. and the second at 8:15 p.m. The films are Stanley Kramer's “Inherit the Wind” and John Ford's “The Informer,” showing in that order.

Theatre

The Amman Players present excerpts from Neil Simon's “Plaza Suite” combined with a buffet dinner at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel Ballroom at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the hotel or from members of the American Women's Club.

Delegation off to Damascus for joint electrical power meeting

AMMAN, Jan. 30 (JNA)—Jordan's representatives on the Jordanian-Syrian joint electrical power subcommittee left for Damascus today to take part in a three-day meeting starting today. The subcommittee will be reviewing progress in the second phase of the grid linkage between Jordan and Syria including electricity rates, Director of Planning at the Jordan Electricity Authority Ibrahim Badran said. Mr. Badran, who leads the three-member delegation, said the second phase which entails the

construction of a 100 megawatt line with a 132 kilowatt tension should be completed in the first quarter of this year. The first phase was completed in 1977.

Saudi Arabian communications official arrives

AMMAN, Jan. 30 (JNA)—Under-Secretary of the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Communications Dr. Nassir Al Saloum arrived here today for a three-day visit. He will have talks with officials at the Transport Ministry connected with the Hijaz Railway project.

THE PUB

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مکتبہ اسلامیہ

Mr. Ibrahim said he had conveyed to Sheikh Isa Ibn Salman Al Khalifa, the emir of Bahrain, an oral message from His Majesty King Hussein which focused on the King's recent consultations with European leaders.

The emir gave Mr. Ibrahim a reply to the King's message. Later Mr. Ibrahim conferred with the Prime Minister of Bahrain Sheikh

AMMAN, Jan. 30 (JNA)—Services to Palestinian refugees by the United Nations condition of refugees and put an additional burden on the host countries, Mr. Jarrar said.

He pointed out that UNRWA's 1979 budget totalled \$151.8 million out of which 57 per cent is allocated to education, 26 per cent to relief services and 17 per cent to health services. He said that UNRWA should continue to render its services until a just solution is found for the refugees.

Speaking at the opening session, the Under-secretary of the Ministry of Development and Reconstruction Abdul Rahman Jarar said that UNRWA's services to the refugees are threatened due to the recurrent deficit in its budget over the last ten years. This problem must be settled since any reduction of services would further aggravate the

Jordanian-Iraqi committee to discuss tomato paste factory.

AMMAN, Jan. 30 (JNA)—The Jordanian-Iraqi joint technical committee will hold a meeting here on Feb. 13 to discuss Iraq's participation in a Jordanian tomato paste factory. Under-secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce Dr. Hashem Dabbas said here today. He added that Iraq then intends to import tomato paste from the factory to meet the demand in the Iraqi market.

AMMAN, Jan. 30 (JNA)—A national society for the care of mentally retarded people has been set up in Jordan, Dr. Hisham Al Nazer of the Medical Department at the University of Jordan said here today. He said the society which includes a number of specialists will supervise programmes for rehabilitating mentally retarded people at special therapy and rehabilitation centres.

Temperatures will be above normal with light and variable winds. In Agaba Gulf winds will be northerly moderate with calm seas.

Temperature:	Overnight minimum	Daytime maximum
Amman	6	21
Aqaba	11	25
Jordan Valley	12	24
Deserts	5	21

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1 Jordan Times
staff reporter

Jan. 30—Every five
so, there is an explo-
chemistry laboratory at
sity of Jordan. No need
The student eating sal-
breaks out in a big smile
as she sees the ten odd
students gathered
jump back in surprise.
Youser is one of 350
Department graduate
graduate students who
entered to spend up to
a day for eight days to
total of 52 different
for the Fifth Annual
Exhibition put on by
In Chemical Society.
in purpose of the exhibi-
supplement the chemis-
ing for the second and
or secondary students,
many schools lack
equipment and chem-
exhibition is often the
nce students get actually
experiments they read

hibition was inaugurated Feb. 25, with a speech by Dr. Farar, departmental chairman of the university and president of the Jordan Chemical Society. More than 50 guests from the Ministry of Education, the Royal Jordanian Air Force, the Jordanian Armed Forces, and university faculties were invited and treated to a buffet. The inauguration was presided over by Dr. Marwan Kamal, dean of the Faculty of Sciences. The exhibition finishes on Feb. 1, it will run at Yarmouk University from Feb. 3 to Feb. 10, and then in Zarqa (at the private school) from Feb. 12 to Feb. 15. Dr. Adnan Badran



A smiling secondary student waits to observe one of 52 experiments put on at the University of Jordan's Chemistry Department during the current eight-day exhibition there.

the President of Yarmouk University, will inaugurate the exhibition at Yarmouk at 10 a.m. this Saturday.

paring for the Tawjihiyeh. The students from different schools stay at the exhibition for about 2 hours. Each class breaks into groups which go from experiment to experiment.

This is the first year that the exhibition has been scheduled to

run for eight days instead of six at the two universities. The rapid increase in the number of schools means that there are still many students who can't get to see the experiments. At Ashrafiah Girls School, three out of seven third secondary classes were chosen, by lottery, to go. There was no chance for the five second secondary classes.

According to Dina Matar, a Chemistry teacher at Ashrafiah, "All of them want to go. They all get more interested in the subject by coming here." However, Mai Omaish, also a teacher at Ashrafiah, added: "About 60 per cent come to take notes and learn, the rest for a change."

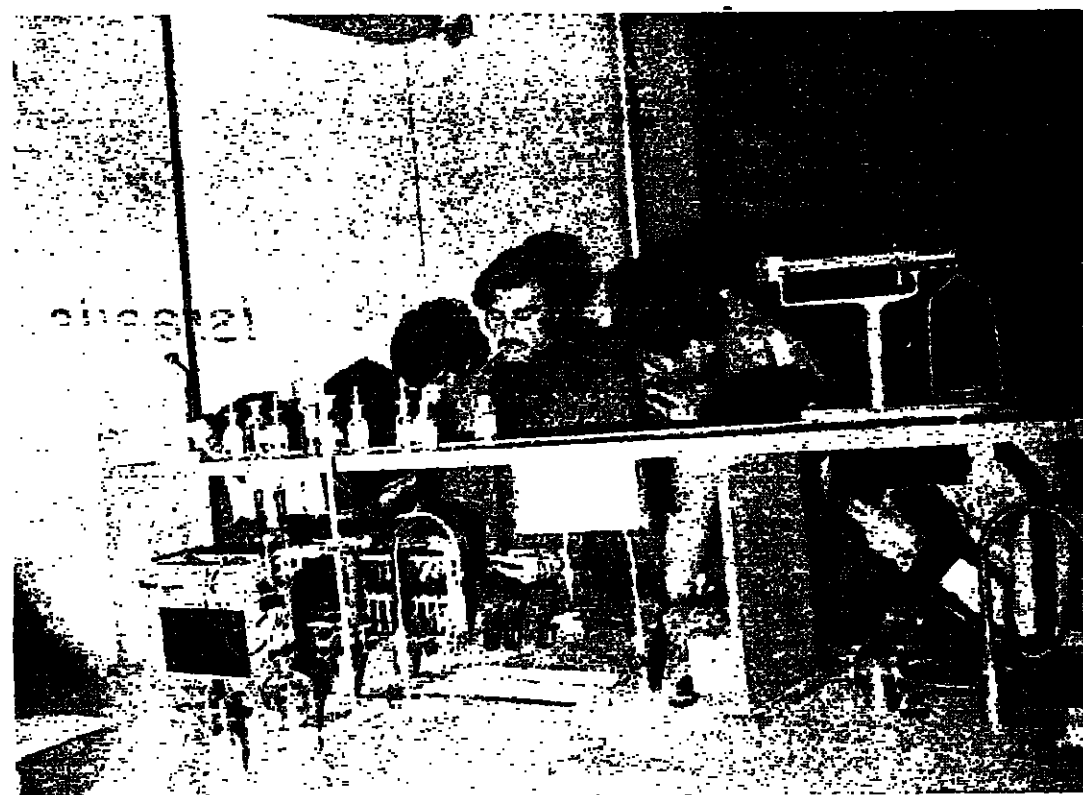
The exhibition this year is helped by a contribution of JD 1,300 from several Jordanian Chemical Companies led by the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company. This money is used to supplement the chemicals and glassware the university provides.

Attendance is not limited to students sent directly by their schools. Others, especially students who are able to visit the exhibition in groups, are encouraged to do so.

Because girls' schools are often newer and not as fully equipped as the boys' schools, they are given the longer visiting hours: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. as opposed to 2 to 5 p.m. for the boys.

Elham Ahmad, a second secondary student at a comprehensive school who was visiting the exhibition, said: "We've heard of this equipment and these experiments but never seen them--this helps us understand," summing up the programme's value. A lab-full of eager faces bore witness to these words.

Keep those explosions coming!



The mysteries of chemistry are explained.

The Jordan Times can accept classified advertisements that are sent in by mail and accompanied by payment in cash. Readers and advertisers who cannot conveniently bring their advertisements to the Jordan Times office or to an advertising agency office in Amman may send in their ads by mail on the following conditions:

The payment is cash accompanies the advertisement.
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For the minimum price of JD 2, the advertiser will have published an advertisement of three columns on two columns, which will have a maximum of 30 words, including the headline and telephone numbers to be called. The JD 3 charge is for one insertion; two insertions cost JD 6, three insertions cost JD 9, etc.
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(for every ten)	100.90/101.50
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NAME OF COMPANY	Par value	Volume Traded	Last Buying Offer	Last Selling Offer	Closing Price
Jordan Petroleum Co.	JD 5.000	5.066	6.550	6.570	6.580
Jordan Cement Factories	JD 10.000	2,864	14.320	14.350	14.320
Arab Pharmaceutical Co.	JD 5.000	824	—	—	17.200
Jordan-Gulf Bank	JD 1.000	160	1.040	—	1.040
Dar Aldawa Development and Investment Co.	JD 1.000	4,243	2.000	2.050	2.000
Jordan Electricity Co.	JD 1.000	162	1.340	1.350	1.350
Jordan Ceramic Industries	JD 1.000	276	0.920	0.930	0.920
Jordan Tobacco And Cigarette Co.	JD 5.000	4,629	7.500	—	8.000
Jordan Tanning Co.	JD 5.000	796	8.700	—	8.700
Cairo-Amman Bank	JD 5.000	1,280	6.400	6.500	6.400
Petra Bank	JD 10.000	504	11.200	—	11.200
Jordan Insurance Co.	JD 1.000	3,334	9.000	9.750	9.750
Raffa Industrial Co.	JD 5.000	62	3.100	3.200	3.100

Total volume traded, Tuesday, Jan. 30: 24,200
Total number of shares traded: 5,001

	Par value	Volume traded	Number traded	Year of maturity	Selling price
Government Development Bonds	JD 5,000	10,160	1,650	1986	5.080
	JD 10,000	2,018	200	1987	10.090

Total volume traded: JB-12,178

Old is Gold...

By Beata Levy

PARIS—One of the latest investments by a British pension fund is an exciting cross-channel venture into art and antiques. Thanks to the unlikely combination of a Paris department store building becoming vacant, and the British POSSF (Post Office Staff Superannuation Fund) ready with Frs. 140 million to sink into it, the corner block opposite the entrance to the Louvre Museum in the Rue de Rivoli became converted into an attractive Antiques Market.

The project took two years to complete, with an additional Frs. 450 million from an international bank consortium. Today the "Louvre des Antiquaires", a London-type antiques market, is open for business, with every one of its 240 stands fully let on three floors—and crowded most of the day.

For there are no more invertebrate lovers of antiques than the French. Paris has some of the greatest dealers of fine furniture in the world, on the Left Bank and around the Place Vendôme.

At the other end of the scale, its famous flea market has always attracted serious dealers and amateurs.

In between there are 8,000 registered antique businesses—a staggering number compared with Britain's 4,000. What is more, they have been multiplying fast, especially in the provinces, as have antique fairs, now over 150 in number.

All this adds up to a total of Frs. 2 billion worth of antiques changing hands officially in 1977 (compared with Frs. 700 million in 1970).

But saturation point seems nowhere in sight. The new "Louvre des Antiquaires", despite its pompous title, is further whetting the appetite of Parisians. This may be as much due to its layout and convenient location as to an intelligent sales policy which sets out to create confidence.

Unlike most antique shops the world over, a clearly visible price tag accompanies every item on display. This is one of the market's internal rules, another being periodic inspections of the claims made for the merchandise.

A bureau of experts is on the

Even the British, whose taste for antiques is well developed, are cashing in on the antiques boom in France. Not everything that is old is equally valuable, however. French collectors will pay up to Frs. 1,000 for an old postcard, but currently show no interest in 18th century furniture.

spot to authenticate the purchase at the buyer's request, and to deliver a certificate guaranteeing age and quality. But since errors of judgement are always possible, would-be purchasers are encouraged to take out an insurance policy at a low premium which promises the refund of the purchasing price if the guarantee can be proved wrong.

"The Japanese keep telling me they prefer our market to antique shops because prices here do not shoot up the moment they are showing interest," said the American owner of an Art Nouveau stand.

The "Louvre des Antiquaires" may win back some of the clientele that antique dealers have lost to auctioneers. Many family buyers who used to spend weekends browsing through junk shops are attending auction sales instead. On occasion they pay over the odds at an auction for merchandise they had previously turned down at a dealer's because of distrust and ignorance.

Not all auctioneers are doing well, however. Those who specialise in 18th century furniture are complaining of lack of demand. Interests in firearms is also at a low ebb. Prices for non-figurative modern paintings are refusing to climb back to their pre-1974 high levels.

But innocent kids such as postcard collecting is spreading like wildfire, and are responsible for the increased turnover of one specialised auctioneer from Frs. 6,000 to Frs. 28,000 within six months. The addition has hit 100,000 Frenchmen, so that Frs. 1,000 is no longer an unusual price to pay for one old postcard.

Silver and jewellery are booming. There is also a strong demand for art from the Middle East, an Iranian manuscript having recently changed hands at a record price of Frs. 720,000.

The president popularity of Art Nouveau explains the new peak reached when a Galle lamp sold

for Frs. 140,000. In as much demand as ever are the minor classic painters of the turn of the century, the Pompiers, and the Orientalists.

More exciting and new is the promising interest in pre-1860 painters—"Cavalier Greek" by Delacroix reached Frs. 3.4 million, and a William Kloss Heda Frs. 1.25 million.

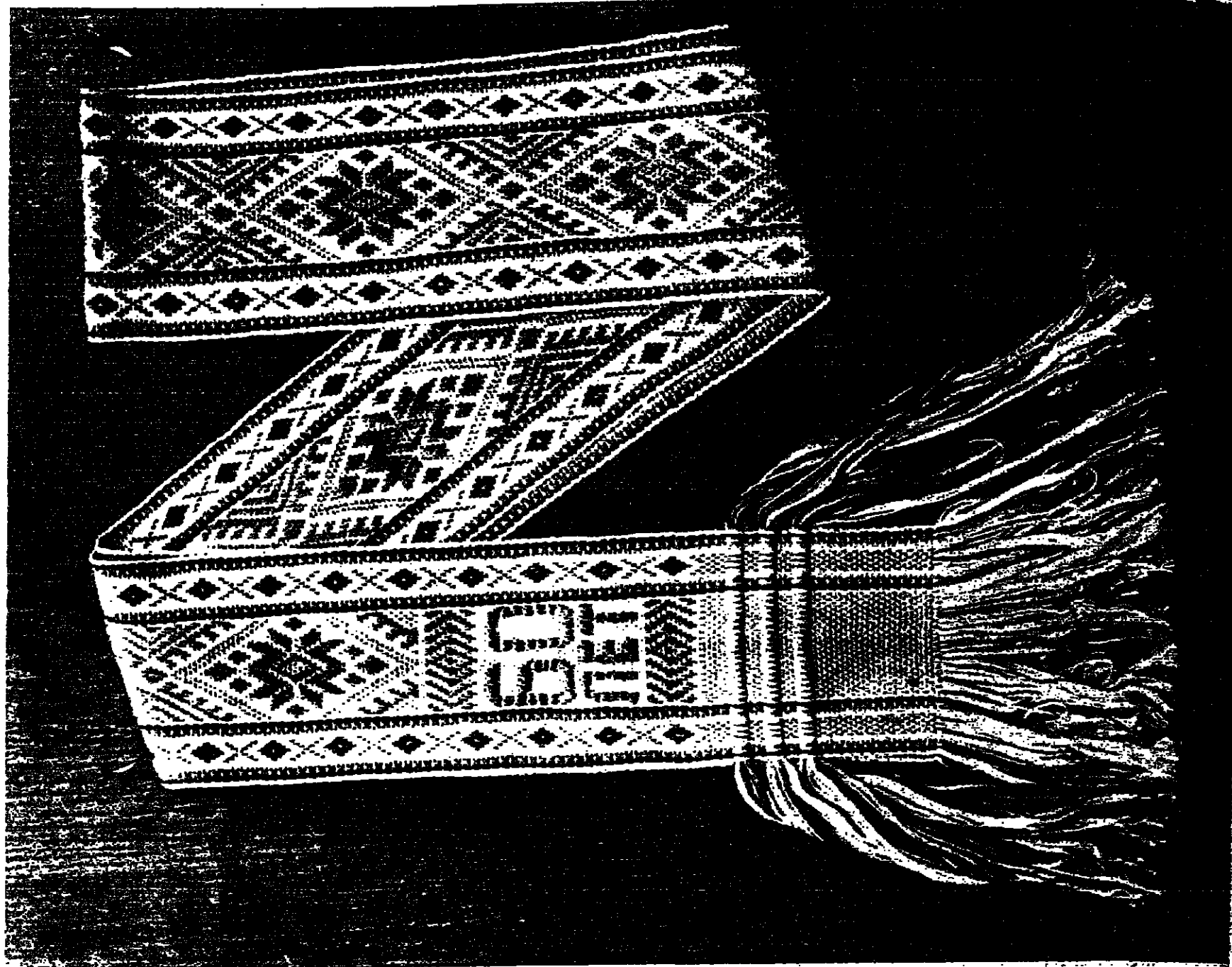
This is all the more welcome since auction sales got off to a slow start after the summer recess. At about the same time, a certain nervousness had seized the top dealers who took part in the 9th Biennale—which to collectors is the most celebrated of international antique fairs. In 1978 it proved to be a bitter commercial disappointment. The Renaissance bronzes, French furniture from royal palaces, and paintings by old masters, all museum pieces, remained unsold. Prices were deemed to be exorbitant.

Neither can the market in modern paintings be feeling elated after the recent mishap connected with the cancelled sale of three Mondrians in the Pompidou Museum of Modern Art. At the eleventh hour, doubts were cast on the authenticity of the paintings, which had previously been praised by a number of experts. Realists are now saying that the Frs. 6m which almost changed hands is a sum large enough to undermine confidence in abstract art further.

Confidence is now the keyword and panacea for every ailing branch of the art world. Did not the POSSF's investment show confidence in the French passion for antiques? The new antique market is leaning on it to catch new enthusiasts. The auctioneers, by virtue of their being "ministerial officers", have always been personally responsible for the accuracy of the merchandise described.

It only remains for collectors to feel confident that they will be able to pay for it all.

Financial Times News-Features



A belt of Slutsk

Craftswomen retain skills

For two centuries the fame of Slutsk belts has failed to fade away. The best samples have come into the treasure-

house of world art. 18th century. At that time they were not only a significant part of men's garments, but a symbol of distinction. At

first, weavers were such belts started in Krakow, and at the end of the 18th century the skill of Byelorussian weavers, and high quality of works remained consummate. Works of the 18th century are exported to East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Finland and Sweden. Weavers of Slutsk learned to make two, and even four faces of various patterns on a single belt. The so-called "cast" belts, the face side of which was interwoven with gold thread covering the silk ground, demanded their special skill. Moments of Manufacturing of (TASS)



Anna Poleshchuk (centre) learned the difficult art of weaving patterned belts from her mother. Now she shares her experience with young people.

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U.N. resolution on trade gives support to developing nations

UNITED NATIONS, Jan. 30 (R) — Despite negative votes from the United States, Canada and the nine European Common Market countries, the General Assembly approved a resolution yesterday calling for reform of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). The resolution, which passed by 110 to 11 with 11 abstentions, emphasised the rights of developing countries in any changes made to the international trade regime.

The North American and EEC countries did not detail the objections which prompted their "no" votes, but they apparently disapproved of changes mentioned in the resolution, including special treatment for developing countries.

The resolution said that any new codes or rules in negotiations affecting developing countries' trade should not be adopted without full participation and acceptance by those countries.

The assembly also urged all participants in multilateral trade negotiations to assess jointly the impact of the 1973 Tokyo declaration concerning additional benefits to developing countries and to take corrective measures as necessary.

The assembly called on developed states to abide by

agreements reached in the 1973 Tokyo declaration, especially concerning principles of reciprocity in trade relations between developed and developing countries, and special and differential treatment for developing countries.

The resolution said that results of the negotiations should reflect the substantial reduction and eventual abolition of tariff and non-tariff restrictions against the trade of developing countries, removal of discriminatory and escalatory barriers against them, and improvement in the operation of the generalised system of preferences to provide wider coverage and deeper cuts in tariffs.

U.N. budget

The General Assembly also approved the United Nations' first

\$1 billion budget, but states responsible for three-quarters of that sum declined to vote for it.

The resolution, adding \$93.7 million to the already agreed budget for 1978-79, was adopted by 98 to 15 with nine members abstaining.

Chided for failing to trim costs, Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim said he could not control inflation and currency fluctuations which were largely responsible for the increase.

He noted that \$18.5 million of the extra cash needed was for programmes approved by the General Assembly, and asked: "What should the secretary-general do—not implement the resolutions?"

Yuri Fokine of the Soviet Union, who voted against the budget, said those responsible for currency devaluation—an allusion to the United States—should make up the deficit.

Melissa Wells of the United States said she voted against the resolution to express American concern at the lack of proper budgetary restraint. She urged delegates to join in an attempt to make the U.N. more effective, more efficient and more economical.

The revised budget totals \$ 1.09 billion, an increase of more than 38 per cent on the sum approved just 13 months ago for the two-year period.

Biggest contributor by far to U.N. funds is the United States, which has to pay 25 per cent of the budget. The Soviet Union ranks second at 11.60 per cent, followed by Japan (8.64 per cent) and West Germany (7.70 per cent).



Making the best of a hard situation

This picture was taken inside a Khmer refugee camp near the Thai border, where life is being organised with the means available. Children are shown attending an improvised school. (Gamma photo)

More 'boat people' leaving Vietnam?

MANILA, Jan. 30 (R)—More refugees from Vietnam may now be on their way to the outside world with the official sanction of the Hanoi Government, Philippine officials said today.

The Foreign Ministry officials said three vessels may be taking on refugees at Ho Chi Minh City and another could already be at sea.

The officials said they had reports that the boats at Ho Chi Minh City were being loaded in accordance with new formal pro-

cedures laid down by the Vietnamese Government.

"If they see the Philippines as the only country which allows them to have temporary asylum, they may all come here," one senior ministry official told Reuters.

He said that concern over such a possibility would mark a meeting tomorrow of a ministry committee dealing with the fate of the Tung An, a ship carrying 2,300 refugees which has been anchored in Man-

ila Bay for more than a month.

The official said the Tung An might now be sent to Hong Kong unless the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) could show there was still a chance of the refugees being taken quickly by other countries.

"If the UNHCR tells us that countries are no longer taking refugees from the ship, then it means we have failed in our appeal to the 19 countries we asked to help," he said.

He said the Hong Kong-owned Tung An, which arrived on Dec. 27 with 2,318 refugees, was given temporary asylum in Manila Bay so that the UNHCR could make arrangements for their speedy resettlement. If no one took the remainder, then the reason for giving the temporary asylum no longer existed, he said.

The ship would then have to proceed to Hong Kong, its scheduled first port of call, which has just allowed 2,700 refugees to land. They came from another vessel, the Huey Fong, which the British colony kept outside its harbour for a month.

Malta still lacks aid, neutrality guarantees

ROME, Jan. 30 (R)—Arab and Western nations are unlikely to finalise a pact guaranteeing Malta's neutrality before the last British troops leave the island on March 31, well-informed Italian sources said yesterday.

Italy and France, representing the European Common Market, have been discussing an agreement with the Libyan Jamahiriya and Algeria as Malta seeks both financial aid and guaranteed

neutrality.

Maltese Premier Dom Mintoff wants some \$76 million annually to compensate for the closure of the British bases he himself ordered, the sources said.

A final declaration underwriting the Mediterranean island's neutrality would probably not be completed by the time Britain's remaining 1,000 troops left, the sources added.

China to rehabilitate more political victims

PEKING, Jan. 30 (R)—Peking has given local authorities throughout China one week in which to rehabilitate all deserving people who have been persecuted or purged by extremist political leaders, informed sources said yesterday.

The sources said the local authorities had been warned that the press would start naming those organisations which failed to meet the deadline.

In another major move, the New China News Agency (NCNA) reported yesterday that some of the bitterest targets of the Communist Party after its victory in 1949 would no longer be stigmatised as "landlords, rich peasants, counter-revolutionaries and bad elements" if they had reformed. Their children would also no longer suffer for their "class origin," NCNA added.

This follows last week's announcement by NCNA that China was to give back money and property seized from former capitalists during the cultural revolution.

Yesterday the news agency quoted from a circular by the Public Security Ministry saying reformed landlords, rich peasants and others previously branded as undesirable would be called "commune members or workers, according to the kind of work they do, and have the same citizenship rights as other people."

On the rehabilitation issue, a number of former leaders who had

been purged and persecuted during the past 20 years or so have already had their names cleared.

Sources said, however, there had been growing concern among central authorities that people in lower-level positions who had suffered were not being rehabilitated quickly enough.

The New China News Agency, meanwhile, in referring to former class enemies, said the Communist Party Central Committee earlier this month had reached "a decision on the question of removing the designations of landlords and rich peasants and on the class status of landlords and rich peasants."

The agency said the "great majority of landlords, rich peasants, counter-revolutionaries and bad elements" had successfully reformed themselves.

It said the Central Committee decision had noted that landlords and rich peasants from the pre-1949 days had "undergone remoulding through manual labour for two or three decades and the great majority of them have become labouring people who earn their own living." It said they should now be treated like any other commune member.

"Qualifications for school enrollment, job allocation, joining the army, the Communist Youth League and the party should be based mainly on the political behaviour of the persons concerned without discrimination."

Their children should be similarly

treated.

The leaders of six human rights groups said yesterday they would continue to fight for more freedom in China in spite of a threatened crackdown on the more outspoken advocates of democracy.

The leaders held a rally attended by several hundred people at Peking's "democracy wall" and it seemed designed to coincide with yesterday's first round of talks between President Carter and Senior Vice-Premier Deng Xiaoping in Washington.

The meeting at "democracy wall" officially was in response to a recent speech by Peking Mayor Lin Huijia (Lin Hu-chia).

Mr. Lin seemed to suggest a crackdown was imminent when he warned that open criticism of society, public demonstrations, marches and underground newspapers were going beyond tolerable limits.

Undeterred by the mayor's statements, the leaders of the six human rights groups yesterday told the crowd that "the fight for human rights and democracy will continue."

The meeting at "democracy

BRUSSELS, Jan. 30 (R)—Spain will formally open negotiations with the Common Market next Monday on its bid to join the community, EEC officials said yesterday.

But detailed talks on the Spanish application, the most complex of the three now before the nine existing members, will not begin until after the summer.

Negotiations with Greece are already well advanced, with all the major political issues settled. An agreement is expected to be signed in the summer, so that it can join the community in 1981.

Portugal has formally opened negotiations, but detailed talks have been held up, partly by the change of government in Lisbon.

Officially, the three sets of talks are being kept apart, but experts here widely expect Spain and Portugal to join the EEC at the same time, later in the 1980s.

Next Monday's meeting will be chaired by French Foreign Minister Jean Francois-Poncet, president of the EEC Council of Ministers for the first half of the year.

Spain's application for EEC membership poses special problems for the existing nine because of the competition posed by its growing industry and its extensive agriculture.

It will add nearly a third to the community's agricultural area, and to the number of both farmers and farms. According to the EEC

Spain to open negotiations with EEC

World Briefs

Spanish police detain murder suspect

MADRID, Jan. 30 (R) — Police have detained a man suspected of murdering a supreme court judge in Madrid earlier this month, informed sources said yesterday. A young woman suspected of being the getaway car was also detained, the sources said. She belongs to the extreme-left urban guerrilla organisation which claimed responsibility for the Jan. 9 killing of Judge Cruz Cuenca, the sources said. He was detained last Friday after the arrest of the young woman and two other suspected activists. In their swoop, the sources added, police also shotguns, a revolver, a pistol and ammunition, together with other disguise material.

Muhammad Ali nears formal retirement

UNITED NATIONS, Jan. 30 (R) — World heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali said last night he planned never to fight again. "I would make his formal retirement announcement on television," he said. He spoke with reporters after presenting Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim with a picture he had painted. Regarding his career as an artist, the champion said he would more pictures to be auctioned off for worthy causes. The picture presented yesterday, on the theme of peace, depicts UN headquarters and a globe symbolising the nations of the world.

Baader-Meinhof lawyer awaits own verdict

STUTTGART, West Germany, Jan. 30 (R) — A three-year jail term was demanded yesterday for lawyer Klaus Gysi who defended Baader-Meinhof urban guerrilla group members in their trials for murder and bank robbery. Public prosecutor Heissler also demanded a five-year legal ban on the 49-year Stuttgart attorney, who is charged with running an information work between urban guerrillas in jail and those still at large. Croissant, who was arrested in June, 1975, jumped bail in July and fled to France, claiming political asylum. His extradition months later following a decision of the French Supreme Court Appeal caused a political outcry from the extreme left. Lawyers are due to make their final plea next week and the verdict expected in mid-February.

Fountain of youth hidden in gooseberries

MOSCOW, Jan. 30 (R) — The secret of eternal youth, squeezed from an unripe gooseberry, according to Soviet scientists, is the subject of a new book by a Soviet biologist. Research at Moscow's Institute of Biological Physics has shown the acid in the young fruit can prevent the disintegration of cells which causes illness and old age, the trade union newspaper reported. The acid, described as an "elixir of youth," is said to out-diseased and dying cells and stimulates regrowth of tissue.

Kenyan, Ethiopia leaders hold talks

NAIROBI, Jan. 30 (R) — Kenyan and Ethiopian heads of state, linked by a mutual suspicion of Somalia's intentions in the Horn of Africa, yesterday held talks in Addis Ababa, the official Ethiopian radio reported.

Kenya's Daniel Arap Moi was earlier given a warm welcome when he arrived on a three-day official visit to Marxist, military-ruled Ethiopia. He was greeted at the airport by the Ethiopian leader, Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam, and crowds lined the road as the two leaders drove to the national palace, according to Addis Ababa Radio monitored in Nairobi.

Kenya, one of black Africa's most successful capitalist states, and its Marxist neighbour, linked by a shared fear of Somalia's intentions in the Horn of Africa, have agreed to create a "green" area embracing ethnically Somali lands in both Ethiopia and Kenya. In the mid-1960s, forces clashed with Somalia in northwest Kenya and Ethiopia, aided by Soviet Cuban forces, routed by Somali forces of its eastern Desert region.

The situation in the region remains tense. Last month, Colonel Mengistu what he called "a test" was the Mogadishu regime helping guerrillas still operating in the region.

At a special congress of the party last week, Somali President Siad Barre pledged continued support for guerrillas but also "the door to negotiations was open to end the conflict."

A mutual defence pact between Ethiopia and Kenya was signed in 1974, and Emperor Haile Selassie was thrown in 1974, and Jomo Kenyatta, who was arrested in August.

Kenya has a small, equipped army — tanks, while Russia has more than \$1 billion worth of hardware into Ethiopia against the Somali secessionists in the Red wine of Eritrea.

Nixon's White House invitation attests to 'key role' in China

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30 (R)—Richard Nixon returned to the White House last night for the first time since he left it in disgrace four and a half years ago.

The former president was a guest at a state banquet given by President Carter for China's Senior Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping and which, in a sense, was a tribute to Mr. Nixon's role as the architect of America's new China policy.

Mr. Nixon had little to say to reporters, even though the banquet was a climax to his own historic 1972 visit to China which paved the way to the opening of

normal Sino-American relations and Mr. Deng's presence in the White House.

Mr. Nixon, who was invited to join the president and the vice premier for a private talk before the banquet, said he did not see Mr. Deng in Peking in 1972 and had never met him before. Mr. Nixon said he would meet Mr. Deng privately tomorrow.

Mr. Carter said recently, in answer to criticism, that the invitation to Mr. Nixon was a proper and honourable course because of his key role in the opening of relations with China.

South Africa: Where to draw the line ?

Many big companies are pulling out of South Africa, mainly for commercial reasons. But also for commercial reasons, there is a limit to how far this disengagement can go before it begins to hurt the West as well as South Africa.

By Lorne Barling

Despite years of political pressure, Western companies have continued to invest in South Africa on the basis that profitability is high, but the recent decision by Iran to cut off oil supplies could have profound effects.

Until recently, South Africa was receiving 90 per cent of its oil supplies from Iran, but these ceased in December and the new government has said they will not be resumed. Similarly, supplies to

Israel, a major South African trading partner, have been cut off.

Although South Africa is believed to have strategic oil stocks which could last up to three years and also produces some oil from coal, the country may have to rely on the spot market for supplies, which are likely to cost at least 30 per cent more than previously. And the longer the Iranian stoppage continues, the higher spot prices are likely to be.

South Africa is also known to receive oil supplies from other

sources including minor oil producers, but it is clear that domestic transport and production costs will increase, with consequent pressure on company profitability.

At a time when South Africa is already facing an economic slowdown and a fall in both domestic and foreign investment, the oil problem and continuing pressure for economic sanctions are bound to affect the confidence of foreign companies operating there.

The country has also been faced with a net capital outflow of \$774m. in the first nine months of last year, compared with \$488m. during the whole of the previous year, although its balance of payments position is strongly supported by currently high gold prices.

The attitude of foreign banks to loans for South Africa has hardened considerably in the past 18 months, and there has been a shortage of funds for major long-term projects, although many of them are government backed.

On the other hand, despite political opposition to trade with

South Africa, its export performance in the last financial year was very strong, improving by 20 per cent over the previous year.

It has diversified both its range of exports and the markets in which it sells, perhaps partially in response to the continuing pressure at the United Nations for trade sanctions.

The prospect of even limited sanctions is of particular concern to Britain, which accounts for 60 per cent of all foreign investment in South Africa, amounting to a book value of around £4bn.

The British Department of Trade has already conducted an inquiry into the possible effects of sanctions and asked major trading companies to assess their possible losses, but the results have never been made public.

However, the U.K. South Africa Trade Association recently claimed that as many as 250,000 jobs could be lost in Britain if full sanctions were applied to South Africa. Although this may be an over-estimate, the impact would clearly be devastating.

Britain also has indirect portfolio investment in South Africa amounting to about £3bn, and invisible earnings from that source estimated at £1m. a year.

Although exports from the U.K. are running at around £600m. a year, the British share of the market has fallen recently and there has been a steady withdrawal of assets by major companies, although these were often for purely commercial reasons.

However, although there are few direct pressures on U.K. companies to cut their investments, the growing importance of Black African markets cannot be ignored. Nigeria, for example, imports nearly twice as much as South Africa from the U.K.

Perhaps the most vital factor is South Africa's trade relationship with the United States, which increased its imports from there by 70 per cent during the first six months of last year, although trade in the opposite direction fell substantially.

Much of this U.S. buying reflects the importance of South

Africa to the West as a supplier of essential minerals. It has a glittering array of reserves—86 per cent of the world's platinum, 83 per cent of chrome ore, 64 per cent of vanadium, 48 per cent of manganese ore and 49 per cent of the gold.

Some of these are essential for the production of high technology weapons and South Africa is well aware that the world's other main repository of these minerals is the Soviet Union.

While substitutes for some of these minerals do exist, it is not clear how quickly the existing technology could be adapted to make their use possible in production.

It is therefore likely that while international market forces may reduce foreign commitment to investment and trade with South Africa, the Western nations will continue to resist pressure for sanctions.

Financial Times News-Features

Teenage sniper surrenders; 2 dead, 8 wounded

SAN DIEGO, California, Jan. 30 (R) — A 16-year-old school boy quietly put down her rifle and surrendered to police after shooting two men and wounding eight children and a policeman in a shooting spree.

Children were beginning lessons yesterday when the girl, identified only as Brenda, fired some 40 bullets into a school five home across the street. The children dived under their desks and ran panic-stricken into the street as the bullets smashed windows and scattered brickwork.

The principal of the school, Burton Wang, was shot in the leg to help a wounded child and he died in hospital. A maintenance worker was killed when he was shot in the head. The girl, aged from six to 14, and the policeman were in serious condition.

The girl said she received the rifle as a Christmas present from her father. Police said she had 600 rounds of ammunition and a part of the gift from her father.

Her father, who had pleaded with his daughter to stop using the loudspeaker to give herself up, said she was distraught by the deaths and a long-time friend had parted.

Police evacuated the school and nearby houses when the girl broke out and sharpshooters surrounded the girl's home. Hours after she fired the first shots, she walked out of the house and placed the rifle on the ground. Police grabbed her and she later taken to a juvenile detention centre.

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